

means for checking the purchase order document and acknowledgement for inconsistency relative to an inconsistency threshold defined in conjunction with the agreement, and

means for instantiating an order cancellation process, the inconsistency threshold triggering the order cancellation process if surpassed.

55. (New) A system as recited in claim 40, wherein the document exchange further includes means for

if the purchase order document so requires, providing to the buyer via the document exchange one or more of an advance shipping notice, and a functional acknowledgement.

56. (New) A system as recited in claim 40, wherein the document exchange further includes means for

providing an invoice to the buyer via the document exchange.

REMARKS

This is a preliminary amendment under 37 CFR §1.115. Claims 2-56 were added. Claims 1-56 are now pending in this application. Support for the claims is provided throughout Applicant's original disclosure and no new matter has been introduced thereby. Entry of this amendment and examination of the claims on the merit are hereby respectfully requested

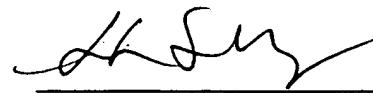
If additional fee is due and not covered by an enclosed payment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee due or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 02-3964.

Date: May 16, 2002

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Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX A
Mark-up Version of the Amended Claim

1. (Amended) A method for exchanging documents in transactions between partners that are joined in an exchange network, the partners communicating with each other via a hub entity, the method comprising:

setting up an agreement associated with each document type for each partner that joins the exchange network;

placing in a file receive location a document from a first partner, the file receive location being password protected such that only a partner that provides a correct identity with any document it sends may place that document at the file receive location; and

performing steps, by the hub entity, including,

retrieving the document from the file receive location,

validating the document against its respective agreement,

mapping the document into a standard document the format of which being partner system platform neutral,

assigning a key to the document for future references,

processing the document based on the agreement, the process including applying rules of the hub entity and rules of the first partner, and [.]

mapping the processed document from the standard format into an altered document the format of which is associated with a second partner and sending the altered document to the second partner based on the corresponding agreement.